

## **BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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### **Sunday, June 28, 2026**

### **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Randy Koppenhaver**

**Musician: Kathy Bowe**

The white peace candle on the altar is lit in solidarity with all peoples of the world affected by armed conflict, civil war, oppression, tyranny, exploitation and discrimination. God, bring them peace.

**\*= Please rise in body or spirit**

**CENTERING BREATH PRAYER:** as you inhale, say the first part of the prayer to yourself, and say the second part as you exhale. Repeat 5x

***I will sing the Lord's praise :: For he has been good to me***

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #549**

**"As We Gather"**

**As we gather may your spirit work within us**

**As we gather may we glorify your name**

**Knowing well that as our heart begin to worship**

**We'll be blessed because we came; We'll be blessed because we came**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** (inspired by Psalm 13)

One: We gather as a people to worship the Holy One who considers our cries and responds to our conditions.

**Many: We gather even when wearied by the world because we trust in God's steadfast love.**

One: Our souls may ask, "How long, Holy One?" Yet our hearts rejoice in your saving acts.

**Many: We gather even when shaken and sorrowful because we hope in God's steadfast love.**

One: We gather to sing to the Holy One who has been generous with us.

**Many: Our worship and our work testifies to the goodness of the God who prevails. Let us worship the God of Life!**

\*OPENING PRAYER:

**God who provides, we acknowledge your presence that invites us to draw near to you. We glorify your name, for you, Holy and Righteous One, remain faithful to your creation. We open our hearts and minds to remember the testimonies of the past and to receive the truth revealed in your word for the present. May you delight in our praise as we honor you and encourage one another in the journey of faithful living. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #267

"Morning has Broken"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**God of mercy;**

**as we gather to celebrate your gift of love  
we recall with sorrow the times when we forget you  
and are divided one from the other.**

**How often our thoughts, our words,  
and our actions,**

**have betrayed the goodness you have shown to us.**

**Forgive us, merciful God. Mend what is broken.**

**Heal the wounded relationships  
that separate us from you and one another;  
through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen**

(time of silence)

WORDS OF GRACE

Jesus Christ knows we have fallen short of his intentions for us,  
yet in his great mercy,

he welcomes us back into his embrace.

**Thanks be to God that we are forgiven,  
refreshed and restored for ministry by God's grace.**

\* RESPONSE (tune: Doxology) “Be Thou, O God Exalted High”  
**Be thou, O God exalted high; And as Thy glory fills the sky,  
So let it be on earth displayed, 'Til Thou art here, as there, obeyed. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

#### **Romans 6:12-23 - NIV**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

<sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. <sup>18</sup> You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. <sup>20</sup> When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. <sup>21</sup> What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in<sup>[a]</sup> Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### **Matthew 10:40-42 NIV**

<sup>40</sup> “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

## CHILDREN'S TIME

FIVE MINUTES OF PRAISE

“Good”

Matthew West

SERMON

\*HYMN #349

“Take my Life and Let it Be”

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE...THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

POST PRAYER RESPONSE #226 v. 1

“Spirit of the Living God”

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me,**

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.**

**Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.**

**Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*OFFERTORY (At Bethlehem United Church of Christ, we collect TWO offerings each Sunday. Our regular operational offering is collected in the wooden plate. In the metal cans, we collect loose change and small bills for a monthly designated benevolent collection. Jingle Change for June supports The UCC's Annual “Strengthen the Church” Offering. “The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations” - ucc.org)*

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE 447 v.1

“All Things are Yours”

**All things are yours! We make that true, when we return our gifts to you. And so we give, and so we share, in Christ's strong name expressing care.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Generous God, what we return to you today has first come to us from you. Bless what we offer so that those in need may taste your abundance which we know already in Christ, our Living Lord. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING SONG        “Go Now in Peace”**

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith. Steadfast strong and true.  
Know he will guide you, in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. A-men, A-men, A-men.***

**BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

**POSTLUDE**

*\*\*liturgies and prayers for today were used with permission from [ucc.org/worshipways](http://ucc.org/worshipways) and <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>*

**Bethlehem Announcements:**

- **Worship on July 5<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Randy will be visiting family in Minnesota over the Fourth of July weekend. Due to members' travels, camping, etc. There will NOT be communion on July 5. Rather, communion will be celebrated on July 12. July 5 will also be a hymn-sing.

**Vacation Bible School!**

Once again, we are partnering with St. Marks/ St. James for Vacation Bible School! All are welcome and needn't be members of any of the involved congregations. Invite a friend! Bonus: It's free!! There is no cost to families! If possible, we will attempt to work out some sort of transportation from Bethlehem to St. Marks. Additionally, we would always accept volunteers to help with activities, even if just for ONE hour!

Enrollment forms were mailed to Sunday School families, but if you need one, please ask Pastor Randy. Please return your enrollment by June 30 so we can begin preparing for classes.

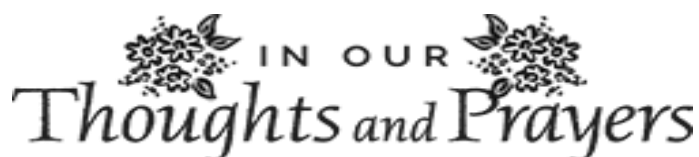
- With the updating of new media equipment, there will be several items available for sale/donation. See items next to the sound room. Couch and chair are in the youth room.
  - VHS tapes
  - Large TV stand
  - Also available is a couch and rocking chair

## **Congrats to our 2026 Graduates**

**Mason Wempner**, Kiel High School

**Merri Wempner**, Kiel High School

**Emiliee Wirtz**, Kiel High School, Plans to attend UW Madison with Major in Early Childhood education - minors in math and psychology



### **Joys:**

The birth of Rylee Collyns Heugel on 5/28/26. Proud grandparents are Jane & Scott Umland  
 The marriage of Eric & Dayna (Schultz) Baake on 5/31/26

### **Those grieving a loss**

The family of Caitlynn Reinhardt

### **Those dealing with health concerns:**

Bob Markelz	
Elaine Brill	Tom Knier
Tyler Meyer	Janet
Judy Brockway	Davin Horneck
Jackie Volland	Karen Laack
Louie Bowe	Dawson Horneck
Heidi Konen	Darlene Horneck
Jessica Horneck	Margaret
Sofia	Willow
Hubert	Larry
Chase Goekes	Tyler Smith
Molly	Linda Skinkis (sister of Judy Brockway)

And for those in our church family who are dealing with concerns but wish to keep them private.

**Those unable to worship with us:** Merlin Nimmer      Helen Henning

## **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Today, Sunday 6/28:** 9:30am Sunday worship; 6:30pm VB game at Bethlehem;

**Monday 6/29:**

**Tuesday 6/30:**

**Wednesday 7/1:**

**Thursday 7/2:**

**Friday 7/3:**

**Saturday 7/4:** *Happy Birthday Colton Aschenbach and Doris Rabe!*

**Sunday 7/5:** 9:30am Sunday worship w/ Hymn Sing- NO COMMUNION. NO Volleyball game.

## **July/August Panty Item:**

